



University of Chester

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Title: Museum collections: Management, conservation and presentation

Date: 21 September 2011

Originally given at: University of Chester Faculty of Health & Social Care Historical
Society meeting

Example citation: Peters, L., & McKay, I.S.H. (2011). Museum collections:
Management, conservation and presentation. Unpublished seminar presentation
given at University of Chester Faculty of Health & Social Care Historical Society
meeting, 21 September 2011

Version of item: Given at conference

Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10034/190531>



Museum Collections: management, conservation and presentation

Presented by
Lisa Peters & Ian McKay

Structure

- Define and examine what the roles and functions of a museum are.
- Collection management.
- Collection conservation.
- Collection presentation.
- What is next...

Derivation of the word museum

- Latin : *museum*
- Greek : *mouseion* – a temple or place of the muses





Clio

Thalia

Erato

Euterpe

Polyhymnia

Calliope

Terpsichore

Urania

Melpomene

The Muses

Calliope - epic poetry

Clio history

Euterpe - lyric poetry

Melpomene - tragedy

Terpsichore - choral songs and the dance

Erato - love poetry

Polyhymnia - sacred poetry

Urania - astronomy

Thalia - comedy

Museums Association definition

Museums enable people to explore collection for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. They are institutions that collect, safeguard and make accessible artifacts and specimens, which they hold in trust for society.

What is a museum for?

- **Education** - exploring values, centres of learning.
- **Protection** - Protectors of artistic, historic, scientific and cultural heritage.
- **Economic** - encourage economic growth and regeneration in an area attracting tourism and business.
- **Political** – giving a sense of identity national, local, corporate or civic.

The background image shows the interior of a large, classical-style building. It features a series of tall, fluted columns supporting a heavy entablature. Above the columns is a large, vaulted glass and steel dome that allows natural light to fill the space. The architecture is symmetrical and grand, typical of a major institutional or cultural building.

Storage & conservation

Environmental Conditions

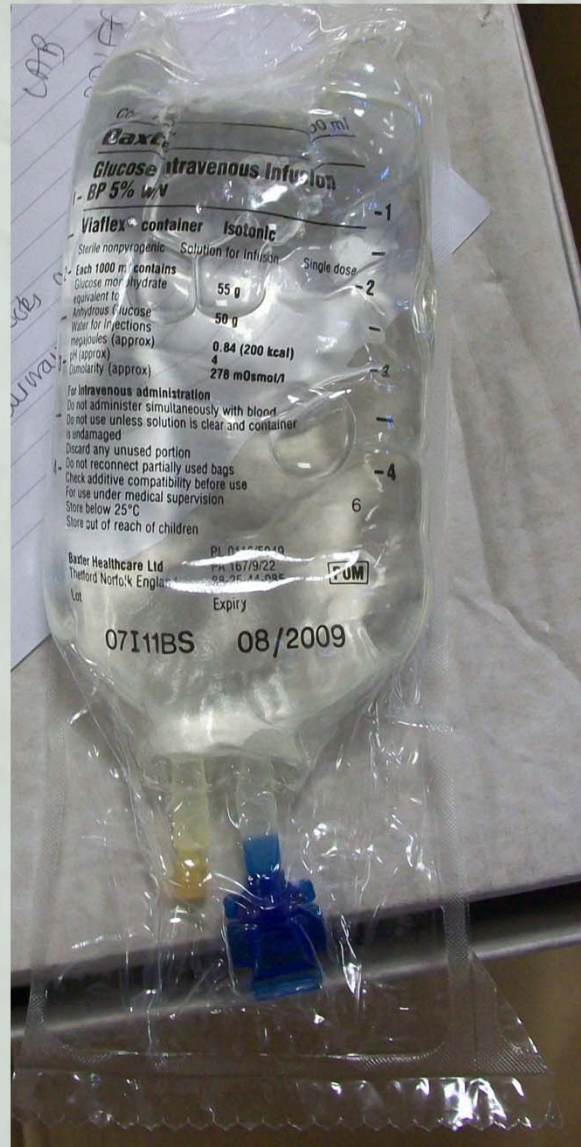
Areas of consideration:

- Thermohydrograph
- Blackout windows
- UV filter on lights
- Insect traps
- Shelving off floor and away from pipes

Storage

- Different storage requirements for different types of materials

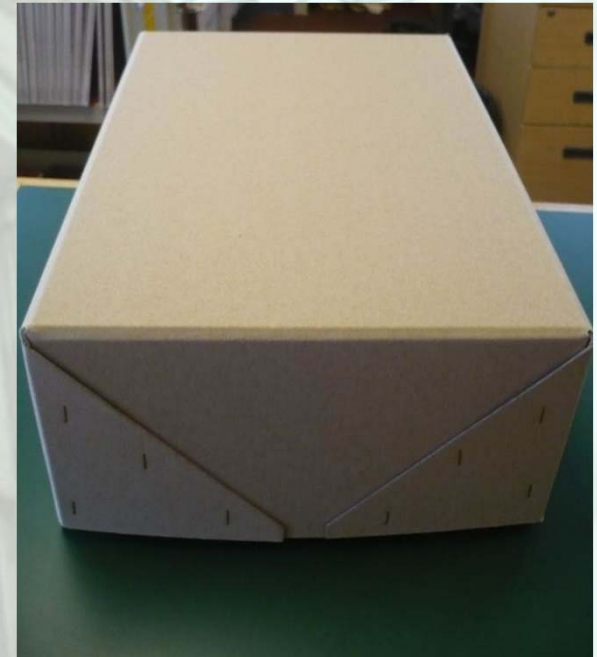
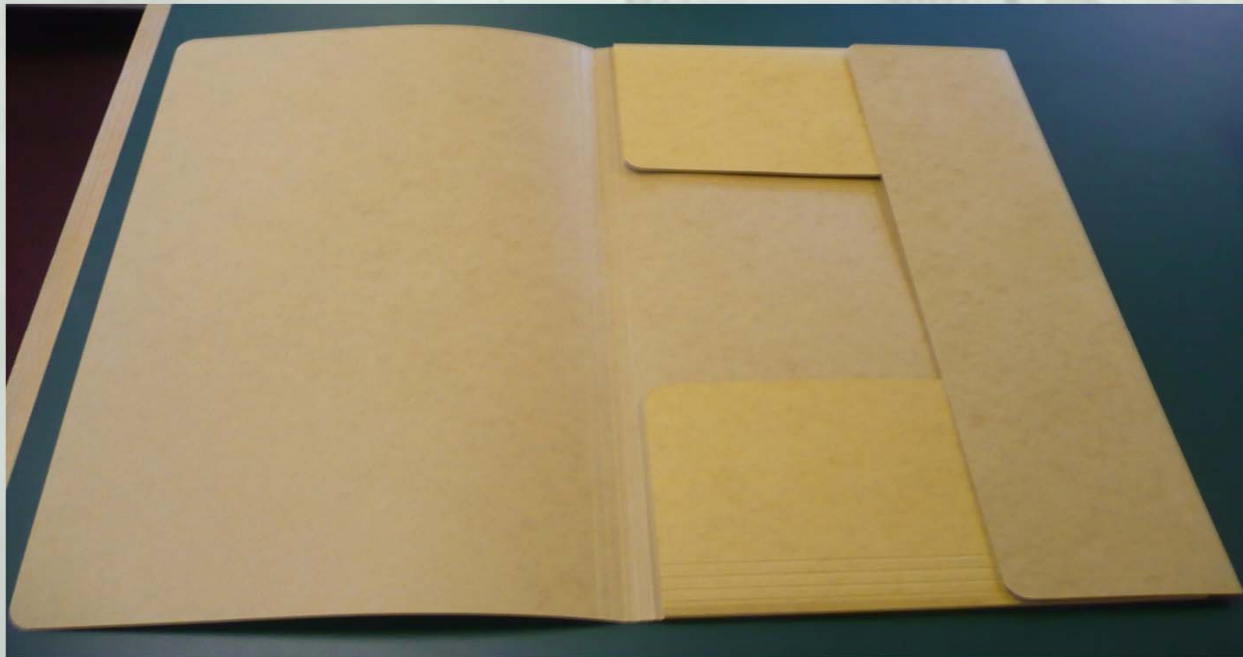






Basics of storage

- Wrap in acid free tissue
- Wrap with acid free cotton tape
- Place in acid free box/folder



Clothes

- Calico covers and appropriate hangers and rail.
- If packed in boxes - special care has to be given to packing and storage.

Complications





Interpretation & Presentation

Display



Labeling styles



Ideas for the future



Ethics



What is next...

- Provisional display of objects.
- Systematic cataloguing and object numbering of the collection.
- Collection packing and storage.
- Development of collection management policies.
- Develop an interpretive strategy.
- Funding applications?